

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-21 are now pending.

The Examiner objected to the drawings on numerous grounds set forth on Pages 2-3 of the Office Action. These objections will be addressed as follows.

The Examiner objected to ENLARGED PORTION B and ENLARGED PORTION D shown on the sheets containing Figs. 5 and 12A and 12B, respectively, requiring the enlarged views to be labeled separately. Accompanying this Reply is a Request for Approval of Proposed Drawing Corrections showing a red-line proposal to label Figs. 5A and 5B, and Fig. 12C. Upon approval by the Examiner, Replacement Sheets will be submitted to the formal drawing.

The Examiner also objected to Fig. 1 as containing a reference numeral 80 not described in the specification. The Examiner suggested that the designated wiring portion should have a label 34. In fact, however, reference numeral 80 refers to a wire bonding, as shown in Fig. 13. Accordingly, the Applicants request reconsideration of this objection.

The examiner also objected to the ENLARGED PORTION B of Fig. 5 as labeling numeral 1 without clarity. A similar objection was made regarding Fig. 6. In reply, the Applicants note that reference numeral 1 refers to conductive material dispersed within the silicone material represented by reference numerals 50 and 60. Note that the tag line accompanying reference numeral 1 in each figure points directly to the dashes dispersed within the silicone material. Accordingly, the Applicants request reconsideration of the objections.

The Examiner also objected to the disclosure for the minor informalities noted on Page 3 of the Office Action. Appropriate corrections have been made to the specification to address the Examiner's concerns.

Claims 13-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on Page 4 of the Office Action. These claims have also been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 12-13, 15-17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hecht et al., U.S. 6,176,131 (Hecht). The Applicants traverse as follows.

Against the limitations of the rejected claims, the Examiner alleges that Hecht's electronic circuitry 11, case

51, and "trapping means" 42 for trapping corrosive compositions. In the patent, reference numeral 42 refers to a protective coating medium which can, for example, be a silicon gel that can flow when applied and only hardens after a certain time. The patent further states that the protective coating 42 can be the same adhesive 40 that is used to glue a sensor element 2 into a recess 20. The patent does not state, however, that the protective coating 42 traps corrosive compositions entering from the outside of the case into the inside thereof. Rather, the patent teaches that the protective coating 42 provides improved moisture protection of the evaluation circuit 11, without noting any corrosive compositions entering from the outside of the case into the inside thereof that might be trapped by the protective coating 42.

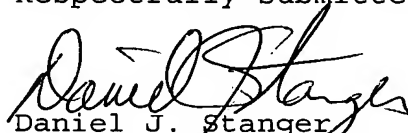
Regarding Claim 3, for example, the Examiner asserts that "any type of an adhesive has corrosiveness by the entering gas, equal to or larger than that of the conductive material such as the wires." However, the Applicants have found that the contents of a corrosive gas can pass through a gel such as that proposed as protective coating 42 in Hecht. Thus, the present invention provides trapping means for trapping these corrosive compositions, wherein the corrosiveness of the

trapping means to the entering corrosive compositions is equal to or larger than that of the wiring lines. In other words, the trapping means is itself more susceptible to corrosion by the entering corrosive compositions, compared with the susceptibility of the wiring lines to corrosion. Hecht neither teaches nor suggests this feature of the invention, in protective medium 42 or any other element.

New Claim 21 further limits Claim 1 by requiring that the corrosive compositions be compositions included in a gas which goes into the inside of the case. By way of example only, this feature distinguishes corrosion by condensation generated from within the case itself.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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on January 5, 2005, by Debbie Labring